

DDI-2007-69

18 November 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Status of Infiltration into South Vietnam

1. A complete assessment of infiltration into South Vietnam, including overland routes, maritime routes, types of supplies, quantities, and other detail, is contained in the USIB Memorandum, Infiltration and Logistics-South Vietnam, dated 28 October 1965.

2. Since the publication of that memorandum little new information has come to light on infiltration routes per se. All the known infiltration routes terminate in the Laos-North Vietnam border area in the northern South Vietnamese provinces of Thua Thien, and Quang Nam. Supplies and men arriving at the Do Xa Base area in the central highlands about 100 miles north of the scene of current heavy fighting at Plei Mei would have to move south over two roughly parallel north-south corridors. The one used most often for personnel follows the western border of South Vietnam and in the Plei Mei area is very close to the Cambodian border, but does not transit Cambodian territory.

3. Further evidence on the extent of infiltration during 1965 has come in since publication of the USIB Memorandum. MACV now has information that 9700 persons have infiltrated into South Vietnam from North Vietnam so far this year, an increase of 4000 from the USIB Memorandum figure. Three new PAVN regiments have been identified, bringing the total number of PAVN regiments in South Vietnam to six (three of these are the three regiments of the 325th Division which arrived in South Vietnam early this year.

4. The first significant southbound movement of trucks in Laos during the current dry season has been observed on Route 23 by a road watch team located near Ban Kavak. Fifty-nine trucks were seen. Forty-two contained unidentified troops; 120 more troops were seen walking. Earlier, on 12 October, a road watch team near the junction of routes 12 and 23 was driven from its position by Communist patrols in what could have been a clearing operation prior to the beginning of truck traffic. In late October, [REDACTED] that trucks in groups as large as seventeen were moving south on route 92.

5. Calculations based on last season's truck traffic have established that an average of 17 to 18 trucks transited Route 23 each way per day from December 1964 through May 1965. The peak month was April 1965, when a daily average of 21 trucks moving south were noted. Continuous road watch reports this season should enable us to determine at a future date the level of supply activity now beginning. There is always a lag in information on personnel infiltration.

[REDACTED]

R. J. SMITH
Director of Current Intelligence

STATINTL

FORM 12-62 2024
No. 419-65

COMPLETED AS UNNUMBERED INFORMAL MEMO ON BOND UNDER DATE OF 18
OCI - NOTICE OF SPECIAL PAPER NOV 65.

Date _____

SUBJECT : Status of Infiltration into South Vietnam

REQUESTED BY : R.E.-RL

PURPOSE :

DESIRED LENGTH :

SPECIAL DISSEM : DDI GRAPHICS? _____

COORDINATION : D/OCI
OUTSIDE OCI : MCO
 : CAS

ASSIGNED TO : _____ DUE DATE: _____

OAD REVIEW :

1. O/DCI _____ 4. CS/II _____ 6. WA _____ 7. AA _____ 8. SSBA _____

2. O/DDI _____ 5. DAY/SIDO _____ P/A _____ P/A _____ P/A _____

3. O/ADCI _____

I HAVE COPY.